

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19 and 20 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for *in vivo* transgene expression, comprising:
 - a) ~~delivering a non-viral, linear nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the transgene~~ to a cell, *in vivo*; and,
 - b) ~~expressing the nucleic acid for extended periods of time~~ transgene for longer than 7 days at levels 20% higher than the nucleic acid sequence present in a circular or supercoiled nucleic acid.
2. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains blunt ends.
3. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains sticky ends.
4. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains a blunt end and a sticky end.
5. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the linear nucleic acid is generated by restriction enzyme digestion.
6. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the linear nucleic acid is generated by polymerase chain reaction.
7. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains an expression cassette isolated from a plasmid backbone.
8. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains an expression cassette which is flanked by ~~inside ends derived from Tn5 transposase sequence derived from inner Tn5 transposase recognition elements.~~
9. (original) The process of claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid ends are blunt.
10. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains an expression cassette which is flanked by ~~outside ends derived from Tn5 transposase sequence derived from inner Tn5 transposase recognition elements.~~
11. (original) The process of claim 10, wherein the nucleic acid ends are blunt.
12. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid contains an expression cassette which is flanked by chimeric ends derived from Tn5 transposase recognition elements.

13. (original) The process of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid ends are blunt.
14. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered to cells intravascularly.
15. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid are delivered intravascularly using pressure.
16. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered by direct intramuscular injection.
17. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered by direct interstitial injection.
18. (currently amended) A process for transgene expression, comprising:
 - a-) generating a non-viral, linear nucleic acid vector comprising an expression cassette to express the transgene from a non-viral, linear vector,
 - b) delivering the linear nucleic acid vector to a mammalian cell; and,
 - b-c) expressing the nucleic acid transgene for extended periods of time for longer than 7 days at levels 20% higher than the expression cassette present in a circular or supercoiled nucleic acid.
19. (original) The process of claim 18, wherein the linear nucleic acid vector is prepared by restriction enzyme digestion.
20. (original) The process of claim 18, wherein the linear nucleic acid vector is prepared by polymerase chain reaction.